IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

van Esch et al.

Serial No.: To be assigned

Filed: September 5, 2003

For: GELLING AGENTS OR

THICKENERS

Examiner: To be assigned

Group Art Unit: To be assigned

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Before calculation of the filing fees and examination, please amend the above-referenced application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 5 of this paper.